

State Awards Grants to Fund Historic Preservation

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), an office within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), this month awarded \$228,775 in grants to assist six organizations in their historic preservation efforts.

“State support is critical to helping communities invest in their cultural and historic resources,” said Kristina Newman-Scott, the State Historic Preservation Officer. “These funds, recommended by the state’s Historic Preservation Council, are key to preserving these cherished sites all across Connecticut for public enjoyment.”

The Historic Preservation Council is composed of 12 citizen-volunteer members and advises SHPO on critical historic preservation issues.

DECD’s historic preservation office awarded five of the grants through the Historic Restoration Fund Grant program. The program is funded by the state’s Community Investment Act and provides a matching bricks and mortar grant to eligible nonprofits and municipalities.

The projects are as follows:

- Eastford — The town will receive \$7,000 for the exterior stabilization and rehabilitation of the Union Society of Phoenixville House. This small project will help the town move forward with additional plans to convert the building into usable meeting space.
- Essex — The Connecticut River Museum will receive \$50,000 to replace the underwater bulkhead that serves to protect the historic 1878 steamboat dock and warehouse that houses the museum. The museum has also received federal funding from the National Maritime Heritage grant program of the National Park Service for this project.
- Hartford — The First Church of Christ, also known as Center Church, will receive \$50,000 for the stabilization and restoration of the church steeple and to upgrade the iconic clock and bell equipment.
- New London — The town will receive \$41,775 to restore original lighting fixtures in city hall as well as the torchiere lamps outside the building. The city previously received a grant from SHPO to fund an assessment of city hall. Lighting restoration was one of the recommendations in the assessment.
- Old Lyme — The town will receive a \$30,000 Supplemental Certified Local Government (CLG) grant to prepare a Historic Resources Inventory in a portion of the town. The CLG program is a partnership between SHPO, the National Park Service and a municipality and assists cities and towns with preservation activities. The Supplemental CLG grant

program is also funded by the Community Investment Act. There are currently 50 CLGs in Connecticut and more than 2,000 nationwide.

- Woodbridge — First Church of Christ will receive \$50,000 for post and beam structural repairs and plasterwork in the church sanctuary. The church's meetinghouse anchors the town of Woodbridge Historic Green District.

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